

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Thursday, April 30, 1998

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

S. 1502—District of Columbia Student Opportunity Scholarship Act

H.R. 6—Higher Education Amendments

**H.R. 3579—FY 1998 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act
(Conference Report)**



S. 1502—District of Columbia Student Opportunity Scholarship Act

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to consider S. 1502 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a closed rule that provides two hours of general debate, equally divided between the majority leader and an opponent. Finally, the rule provides one motion to commit, with or without instructions.

Summary: S. 1502 establishes a District of Columbia Scholarship Corporation as a private, non-profit entity to oversee, publicize, and evaluate the District of Columbia scholarship program and determine student eligibility requirements for participation. Once the corporation is established, it may award tuition scholarships to District students in kindergarten through grade 12. Students from families whose incomes are considered below or near the poverty line are eligible for such scholarships, which may be used for tuition costs at a private or public school in the District or adjacent counties in Maryland and Virginia. The scholarships can cover either tuition for attendance at a private school or tuition and fees for participation in a tutoring program. The bill authorizes \$25 million over three years to provide scholarships. S. 1502 is similar to an original House provision in the FY 1998 District of Columbia appropriations legislation. However, because of the threat of a presidential veto, the provision was removed from the final bill. As a result, the Senate considered and passed S. 1502 as a separate measure.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. The Clinton Administration opposes the measure and has vowed to veto it.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #10, April 24, 1998.



H.R. 6—Higher Education Amendments

Floor Situation: The House will complete consideration of H.R. 6 after it completes consideration of S. 1502. Yesterday, the House completed general debate and considered amendments offered through Title VI of the bill under a modified open rule. The rule makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text. It waives points of order against the bill and its consideration, and states that the bill will be considered by title. The rule requires that amendments must be printed in the *Congressional Record* to be considered. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes during consideration and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule allows one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 6 amends the 1965 Higher Education Act to reauthorize several existing programs that provide federal aid to students and institutions of higher education, authorize new programs, and repeal current unfunded programs. The bill authorizes \$101 billion for these programs for fiscal years 1999-2003. The bill focuses on expanding postsecondary education opportunities for low-income students and increasing the affordability of postsecondary education for many moderate income families. It resolves a current controversy over the cut in interest rates on student loans that is scheduled for July 1, 1998, by establishing a new interest rate formula for new student loans.

The bill also:

- * increases the maximum Pell Grant award from its current level of \$3,000 to \$4,500 for the next school year, and to \$5,300 in the 2003-2004 school year;
- * establishes a new performance-based organization to administer federal student aid programs;
- * establishes Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants, competitive grants offered to states to be used to improve the quality of teachers;
- * authorizes new programs to strengthen the quality of elementary and secondary teachers, as well as expand loan cancellation for individuals teaching in low-income elementary and secondary schools;
- * authorizes new programs to help disadvantaged elementary and secondary students graduate from high school and enroll in college;
- * authorizes \$135 million to assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other institutions of higher education that enroll large numbers of minority students and students from low-income backgrounds;

- * establishes the Frank Tejeda Scholarship program to recruit and train teachers who are proficient in both Spanish and English;
- * creates the Campus-Based Child Care program to award grants to institutions of higher education to assist in providing campus-based child care services to low income students;
- * expands work-study provisions to allow campus-performed jobs to qualify under community service provisions and modifies the campus-based formula in order to provide more funds to institutions of higher education who joined the program after 1985 and for those which serve a large number of low-income students;
- * amends need analysis procedures to increase working dependent students' and single independent students' eligibility for financial aid;
- * increases the amount of income that families may exclude from calculations to determine how much they should contribute to the cost of education and reduces the percentage of a student's assets that must be contributed toward his/her education; and
- * expands the responsibility for reporting campus crime statistics to include administrators who have direct responsibility for student and campus activities and requires institutions of higher education to submit campus crime statistics to the Education Secretary.

CBO estimates that enactment will result in discretionary outlays of \$89.1 billion and mandatory outlays of \$29.4 billion over the next five years. The bill was introduced by Messrs. McKeon, Goodling, Clay, and Kildee, and was reported by the Education & the Workforce Committee by a vote of 38-3.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: Yesterday, the House considered, but did not vote on, the following four amendments:

- * an amendment by **Mr. Paul** (#3) to prohibit the Education Department from using a student's Social Security number, or any other identifier used in any federal program, as the electronic personal identifier required under the bill. The bill currently requires the Education Department to adopt standards for a single electronic personal identification number for students receiving assistance under Title IV. *Staff Contact: Norm Singleton, x5-2831*
- * an amendment by **Mr. Owens** (#51) to create a new Postsecondary Information Technology Education Recruitment program to provide grant funds to institutions to establish, oversee the operation of, and provide technical assistance to projects that provide postsecondary information technology education and employment procure-

ment assistance. The amendment authorizes \$100 million for FY 1999 for this program and such sums as necessary for each of the four succeeding fiscal years. **Contact: x5-6231**

- * an amendment by **Mr. Roemer** (#54) to revise loan limits for unsubsidized loans to allow students to borrow more funds each year, subject to aggregate maximums. The amendment applies to loans made after July 1, 1998. **Staff Contact: Gina Mahony, x5-3915**
- * an amendment by **Mr. McGovern** (#44) to provide an achievement award to Pell Grant eligible students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. The amendment makes the achievement award available for the first two years of postsecondary education and equal to the amount of a student's Pell Grant award. It also provides for the achievement award to be proportionately reduced should appropriations for this provision be less than necessary. **Staff Contact: Cindy Buhl, x5-6101**

At the close of business, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following other amendments to H.R. 6:

Title VII — Construction, Reconstruction, and Renovation of Academic Facilities

Mr. Stupak may offer an amendment (#4) to forgive a debt incurred by a previous administration at Suomi College in Hancock, Michigan. Suomi College owes the Department of Education \$5.4 million for construction of buildings on campus. Founded in 1896, the college enrolls 400 students (60 percent from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan) and employs 140 people (the fourth largest private employer in the region). **Staff Contact: David Buchanan, x5-4735**

Title VIII — Additional Provisions

Mr. Hall (TX) may offer an amendment (#63) to prohibit the Education Secretary from using audit deficiencies in record keeping in determining whether Texas College in Tyler, Texas, complies with financial responsibility and administrative capacity standards of the HEA, if the college made a good faith effort in furnishing records and provides a signed affidavit to this effect to the Education Department. The previous administration of the college mismanaged its operations and as a result lost its accreditation for federal funding. The current administration at Texas College is close to restoring its accreditation; however, some documentation from the previous administration that is required by the Education Department is missing. **Staff Contact: Marlene Hess, x5-6673**

Mr. Miller (CA) may offer an amendment (#69 or #70) to state the sense of Congress that all American colleges and universities should adopt rigorous labor codes of conduct to assure that university and college licensed merchandise is not made by sweatshop and exploited adult or child labor either domestically or abroad. **Staff Contact: Daniel Weiss, x5-2095**

Mr. Stupak may offer an amendment (#5) to authorize \$5 million for each of the next five fiscal years for the Olympic Scholarship program, which provides college scholarships for Olympic athletes while they train. **Staff Contact: David Buchanan, x5-4735**

Title IX — Amendments to Other Laws

Mr. Foley may offer an amendment (#22) to eliminate the federal prohibition on notifying the campus community when a student commits a violent crime. The amendment allows the release of the names of students who are found guilty of committing violent crimes by university disciplinary proceedings. *Staff Contact: Shawn Gallagher, x5-5792*

— *Additional Titles* —

Mr. Livingston may offer an amendment (#64) to express the sense of the House that institutions of higher education should not take actions which prevent students from expressing freedom of speech or association. The amendment does not prevent institutions from imposing sanctions on students who willfully participate in a disruption of a lecture, speech, or presentation. *Staff Contact: Stan Skocki, x5-3015*

Mr. Miller (CA) may offer an amendment (#72 or #73) to create a new Title XI which states the sense of Congress that all American colleges and universities should adopt rigorous labor codes of conduct to assure that university and college licensed merchandise is not made by sweatshop and exploited adult or child labor either domestically or abroad. *Staff Contact: Daniel Weiss, x5-2095*

Mr. Riggs may offer an amendment (#9 or #73) to create a new Title XI to prohibit institutions of higher education which participate in any programs authorized by the Higher Education Act from using race or gender preferences in their admissions process. The amendment does not prohibit or limit an institution from encouraging and recruiting qualified women and minorities, provided that it does not involve preferential treatment in selecting any person for admission. Amendment #9 excludes any private institution which traditionally from its establishment admits only students of one sex. Amendment #73 excludes any tribally controlled institution which has a policy of granting preferential treatment on the basis of affiliation with an Indian tribe. *Staff Contact: Mark Davis, x5-3311*

Ms. Jackson-Lee may offer an amendment (#31) to create a new Title XIII to direct the secretary to study methods to identify students with dyslexia early in their educational training. *Staff Contact: Leon Buck, x5-3816*

Mr. Roemer may offer an amendment (#75) to delete the provision of the bill that requires institutions of higher education to report any reduction in funding or in the number of participants on an athletics team, and report the elimination of any sports teams four years in advance of the actual reduction and justify that decision. *Staff Contacts: Gina Mahony, x5-3915*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #10, Pt. II, April 27, 1998.



H.R. 3579—FY 1998 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Conference Report)

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 3579 sometime today. At press time, conferees had not reached an agreement and were scheduled to continue negotiations today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving the requirement for a two-thirds majority vote to consider a rule the same day it is reported by the committee. The *Legislative Digest* will provide updated information as it becomes available.



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House REPUBLICAN Conference Amendment Alert!

Please attach the text of the amendment (if available) and fax to the *Legislative Digest* at x5-7298

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

Member Sponsoring Amendment: _____ Bill #: _____

Additional Co-sponsors (if any): _____

Staff Contact: _____ Phone #: _____ Evening Phone #: _____

Description of the amendment: _____

(Please include any additional or contextual information)

Reason for offering amendment (e.g., How will this change the bill or current law? Why should members support this change?): _____

Legislative Digest reserves the right to edit descriptions for style, readability, and provisional accuracy.

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